

TOWN Reminder

FREE
December 11, 2020
Vol. 52, No. 31

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Serving the town of South Hadley

www.townreminder.turley.com

South Hadley reports 'earth shattering' COVID increases

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – In what has become a regular occurrence in recent weeks, South Hadley has reported a record increase in positive COVID-19 cases. From Dec. 1 to Dec. 8, 41 additional confirmed cases and 37 new contact cases appeared in town.

"The increases are earth-shattering. A month ago, on Nov. 10, 2020, we had 252 cases confirmed. It took us from March 1 to get to 252. Over the next 32 days, we went to 368," said Michael Sullivan, South Hadley Town Administrator. "When you think about it in those terms, in just over 30 days, we jumped another 116 cases."

As Sullivan alluded to, South Hadley's accumulative confirmed case count now stands at 368, as of Dec. 9. There have also been 357

Please see **COVID**, page 5

A special stroll

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – For much of the year it was unclear if the South Hadley & Granby Chamber of Commerce Annual Holiday Stroll would occur. When all was said and done, the community's holiday spirit could not be suppressed last weekend.

"It's a really fun night in a time where we don't have a whole lot to celebrate or to do," said Chamber President Michelle Theroux.

For the past two decades, the stroll has been held on the Town Commons and served the purpose of uniting hundreds of community members. On account of the COVID-19 pandemic, the traditional model was implausible this year.

Fortunately, the Beers & Story Funeral Home on Newton St. offered up its property, which enabled a drive through

Please see **STROLL**, page 9



Courtesy photo

South Hadley & Granby Chamber of Commerce President Michelle Theroux stands next to Santa Claus during last Friday's Holiday Stroll.

INDEX

Viewpoints	6
Granby	8
Obituary	8
Sports	10
Public Safety	12
Classifieds	13
Seniors	15

REGION, 4

Mass Central Rail Trail feasibility study



SOUTH HADLEY, 7

Ledges closed for the season



Happy Holidays!

AT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, OUR THOUGHTS TURN GRATEFULLY TO THOSE WHO HAVE MADE OUR PROGRESS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAYS FROM THE TEAM AT ERA M. CONNIE LAPLANTE REAL ESTATE.



STEVEN LAPLANTE



GERRY CODERRE



BETTE LORD-HESS



BONNIE ROUX



CAROL WHITE



A. CYNTHIA BAKER



DAISY PENNELL



DAKOTA RICHARDS



DARLENE FORGET



ERIC MERULLO



ERIN HOULE



HASEEB HAFEEZ



JANICE CULLEN



JENNIFER LEWIS



JENNIFER PICARD



JOANNE LAPLANTE



JONI FLEMING



KATE BEDARD



KATHLEEN OS



KATIE ORSZULAK



LAURA STAMBORSKI



MADELINE FLOOD



MARIA BONDE



MARKUS LAURIA



MELISSA WHITELOCK



NADINE WILLIAMSON



NICK VASELACOPOULOS



PATRICIA HAMEL



SAMANTHA DONNELLY



SELINA ORTEGA



SHARON NIEDBALA



YEKATERINA ALEKSEYEVA



M. Connie
Laplante
REAL ESTATE

(413) 536-9111
www.eralaplante.com
2 Lyman Street, South Hadley



KRISTIN ALLARD



MARIA LAPLANTE

CANNABIS

give the gift you'd love to get



HOLYOKE, MA | (413) 650-2500
380 DWIGHT ST. | @CANNAPROVISIONSHOLYOKE
9AM-8PM MON-SAT & 9AM-6PM SUN

LEE, MA | (413) 394-5055
220 HOUSATONIC ST. | @CANNAPROVISIONSGROUP
8AM-8PM SUN-WED & 8AM-9PM THU-SAT



MENU

#BETTERYOURJOURNEY
CANNAPROVISIONSGROUP.COM

Please Consume Responsibly. This product may cause impairment and may be habit forming. For use only by adults 21 years of age or older. Keep out of the reach of children. This product has not been analyzed or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). There is limited information on the side effects of using this product, and there may be associated health risks. Marijuana use during pregnancy and breast-feeding may pose potential harms. It is against the law to drive or operate machinery when under the influence of this product. KEEP THIS PRODUCT AWAY FROM CHILDREN. There may be health risks associated with consumption of this product. Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. The impairment effects of edible marijuana may be delayed by two hours or more. In case of accidental ingestion, contact poison control hotline 1-800-222-1222 or 9-1-1. This product may be illegal outside of MA.

SHELD Fiberhoods progress

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – As it attempts to bring residential gig-speed internet to all corners of town, he South Hadley Electric Light Dept. is steadily expanding its Fibersonic network. SHELD General Manager Sean Fitzgerald discussed the progress during a Dec. 3 Commissioners Meeting.

“We’ve had a lot of action these past few months. We have 11 connected fiberhoods; completely constructed and connected. We have 620 connected customers and six more fiberhoods under construction right now,” said Fitzgerald.

Each day, SHELD completes four to six Fibersonic installations, said Fitzgerald. By year’s end, he expects that 700 installations will be finished.

“We’re firing on all cylinders here for Fibersonic installs, and the feedback we’re hearing is very positive from customers, who really like the speed and the quality of the internet service,” said Fitzgerald. “We have 2,791 website submissions, [residents] who have expressed interest in the service, which is a significant number and growing.”

SHELD recently launched a Fibersonic application for smartphones, allowing residents and small businesses to manage their networks at their leisure. Construction on the department’s new facility near Plains Elementary School is also proceeding smoothly.

“If you’ve driven by the Plains Central Office location, you’ll see that the gates are up, the pavement is poured, the ground is restored and we’re actually going to be relocating a trailer from Stony Brook to Plains tomorrow. The hardened trailer is being scheduled for some time between now and March so progress has been significant on our central office improvements,” said Fitzgerald.

With progress, however, can come problems, as appeared to be the case during last Thursday’s meeting. Peter McAvoy, a member of the SHELD Municipal Light Board who resides on Jewett Lane, expressed his frustration that it will take years for the Fibersonic technology to reach his residence.

McAvoy believes that his neighborhood was put to the back of the list due to its underground utilities. He shared his concerns with the board on Dec 3, acknowledging his disappointment that the most expensive installations have seemingly been saved for last.

“I don’t like being sort of last-served because it’s going to be hardest to put here. I don’t think that that the delivery of

utilities should go in that order. It’s unfortunate,” said McAvoy.

Fitzgerald responded, stating that SHELD must complete nearly 7,000 passings to install Fibersonic in all areas of South Hadley. At the moment, SHELD has completed 2,012 passings.

While 32 fiberhoods will be completed over the course of the next four years, SHELD has only installed 11. Six more will be installed in 2021.

Fitzgerald explained to McAvoy that a definitive strategy is in place to ensure that SHELD doesn’t go overbudget. Hiring an outside contractor to quicken the pace, as McAvoy recommended, is not currently an option.

“That sentiment is shared by a lot of customers,” said Fitzgerald. “It can be a financial problem for us. If we do speed up construction, we will have to bring in more electric crews. It can be done, but it does change the plan; the economics of the plan anyways.”

McAvoy held firm to his stance that the SHELD should expedite the process. He feels as though the current approach is unjust in its design.

“My point is simply this; we’re all equal recipients. That’s everyone out here,” said McAvoy. “I don’t think that we should be assessing every cent when it’s really about the delivery of a service. That’s what makes a municipal different than an investor-owned utility. Everything costs money. Our job is to deliver services to the people of this town.”

Fitzgerald made it clear that SHELD’s plan has been carefully mapped out in an effort to stay under budget and remain efficient.

“I want to acknowledge that there is a huge desire, which is a great problem to have. The second problem is just the speed at which we can construct,” said Fitzgerald. “We do plan to construct the entire town, and we’re looking at a couple months shy of four years to finish the entire town. What makes our business plan work is when we do the work mostly ourselves.”

Michael Conchieri, SHELD’s Financial Manager seconded Fitzgerald’s statement. He informed McAvoy that his neighborhood wasn’t randomly assigned to the bottom of the installation list.

“Part of the reason why we’re doing what we’re doing is to get the most passings as we can at the least cost during the initial phase. The additional revenue that we get from that will only help to pay the project off,” said Conchieri.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

Childcare cohorts to start in-person Monday

By Melina Bourdeau
Staff writer

SOUTH HADLEY – The decision to bring what South Hadley School Committee members referred to as the “childcare cohort” back to school was one which was uncomfortable for each member in its two-hour meeting on Tuesday.

However, while one cohort will begin in person on Monday, Dec. 14, Plains School has gone fully remote due to staffing issues related to quarantining.

During the meeting, interim Superintendent Diana Bonneville addressed the matter, urging the board to take up Plains as a separate issue.

“There is a dashboard on the website with tallies so every time (there is a COVID-19 case) either in person or remote, or any school. We have a district total of current numbers and the year to date,” Bonneville said. “Our current numbers (this week) are nine people tested positive – that’s all the schools, all the students and adults, remote and in person. Another thing we’ve been keeping tabs on is the number of people that we are quarantining. At Plains, we started off first with three people, then it was six and now we’re up to nine people who are pending. It doesn’t mean all adults or all kids, but it poses operational challenge to staffing issues.”

As of Dec. 8, there are a total of 19 positive cases in the district since the schools began tracking in September, according to Bonneville.

She said she recommended the school go remote and committee mem-

bers endorsed her decision.

The committee then began its discussion about bringing more students in person, referring to the next cohort as the “childcare cohort” due to the needs of families to have children in school not only for their education, but because of great childcare needs.

Moving on to the three other schools, the committee voted in favor of bringing back the “childcare cohort” with a vote of four to one on two motions.

The first motion was to allow the “childcare cohort” students in the middle and high school students to return.

Bonneville explained to the change would not be dramatic.

“We would need very few additional staff to go in, we do need to have counselors, speech and language, occupational therapists, physical therapists, but at the middle school and high school level, that would be specific to the needs of the in-person cohort,” she said. “Nothing would change at the high school; it would be two additional students and right now we have two teachers, a handful of paraprofessionals and we’re perfectly happy with that.”

Board members approved to bring back the “childcare cohort” middle and high schoolers back on Monday, Dec. 14, School Committee member Charles Miles opposed the motion.

During the board’s discussions, Miles gave a presentation about the factors which help to determine the risk of having students in person, which he said is currently “medium/high.”


Please see **CHLDCARE**, page 8

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

B&D GENERAL SERVICES - Since 1982

Window & Door Installation Specialist
New & Replacement
Call For Your Free Estimate Today
HIC#1755887 - **413-455-5458**



AFFORDABLE DENTISTRY IS HERE!

• Preventative & Restorative Care • Cosmetic & Implant Dentistry
• State of the Art Laser Dentistry

HOLYOKE DENTAL ASSOCIATES

610 South Street, Holyoke, MA (Convenient to 91 and 391)
Call for Appointment Mon.-Fri.
413-533-8378
www.holyokedentalassociates.com

• Badri Z. Deblan D.M.D. • John P. Griffin, D.D.S.
• Louis A. Rigoli D.D.S. • Robert J. Liptak D.M.D.
Cara M. Seidel, D.M.D.

Care Credit Financing Available and
Most Credit Cards and Dental Plans Accepted

Have Something to Share?

Send your stories and photos
to townreminder@turey.com

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
19					20					21			
			22					23				24	
25	26	27		28			29				30		
31			32		33		34					35	
36				37		38				39			40
	41				42			43		44			
			45				46		47		48		
49	50		51			52				53			
54		55				56					57	58	59
60					61					62			
63					64				65				
66					67				68				

CLUES ACROSS

1. Skateboarders love them
6. Popular sports podcast (abbr.)
9. Former Ohio State great Michael
13. Not dirty
14. Earth goddess (Greek myth.)
15. A Spanish river
16. Pig meat (French)
17. Famed astronomer
18. Floating ice
19. Broadcast
21. Aquatic mammals
22. Some are bath
23. Hip hop trio
24. NY Giants' #56
25. Small European viper
28. Neither
29. Multiple Tony-winner Rivera
31. Loud noise
33. Second year high schooler

CLUES DOWN

36. “_ in comparison”
38. Golf score
39. Raise
41. Pastas
44. Easily manageable
45. Fathered
46. Pouch
48. Institute legal proceedings against
49. News organization
51. Unruly group of people
52. Fasten or secure
54. Sheets of glass
56. Doubled
60. Foolish person
61. Rooney and Kate are two
62. Small, rich sponge cake
63. Advice or counsel
64. Large wading bird
65. Famed British physicist
66. Narrow ridges (Swedish)
67. Field force unit
68. Lying face downward

CLUES DOWN

1. Proof of purchase (abbr.)
2. Soap ingredient
3. Blackbird
4. Single steps
5. Tin
6. Books have lots of them
7. Made of fermented honey and water
8. You can get it in a bed
9. Room for communal meals
10. Early Syrian kingdom
11. Provokes dry amusement
12. Use with “thou”
14. Mollusk
17. Grain storage units
20. Not a car, not a truck
21. Ooze
23. N. Vietnamese ethnic group
25. Tennis pros group
26. Something that’s not what it’s purported to be

27. E. Indian trees
29. Beloved December holiday
30. Regions
32. Metric unit of length
34. Peter’s last name
35. Beige
37. 18-year period in astronomy
40. Where golfers begin
42. Basketball stat (abbr.)
43. Frocks
47. Soda comes in it
49. On approval
50. Trims by cutting
52. Small finch
53. Language Bura-_
55. Nothing
56. Imbecile (British)
57. Tropical Asian plant
58. Abba __, Israeli politician
59. Small freshwater fish
61. Indicates position
65. Data processing

► Neighbor News

Mass Central Rail Trail feasibility study released

State considers it an important trail

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

REGION – Eventually, the Mass Central Rail Trail will run from Northampton to Boston, and MassDOT has released a feasibility plan detailing what is needed to complete the 68.5 mile section. It runs from the end of the Norwottuck Rail Trail in Belchertown to the I-495 area at the Hudson/Berlin town line, and the state says it is a priority to complete. When the entire trail is built out it will run for 104 miles.

The study focuses on the 68.5 miles that run between Belchertown and Hudson, of which 17.5 miles already exist and 51 miles need to be built out. The state has rated the difficulty level of a number of pieces that still need work, with 20.2 miles rated moderately difficult to implement and 22.4 miles rated as highly difficult. Nine new bridges would be necessary to complete the trail, according to the state.

This study divides the MCRT analysis into three segments. The first one goes from the easternmost part of the Norwottuck Rail Trail in Belchertown to the Massachusetts Central Rail Road corridor at the east bank of the

Swift River in Bondsville, a village of Palmer. The second segment goes from the Swift River in Bondsville to the Ware River in Barre. The third section goes from Glenwood Road in Rutland to Stone Road in Berlin, which is just east of the I-495 underpass, Berlin/Hudson town line.

Within those segments are highly detailed notes about what obstacles are in the way, including whether it is a physical problem, such as a missing bridge over a river, or an ownership problem as some pieces are in private hands. It also documents where it may be necessary to leave the trail for short pieces.

Economics

“It’s terrific to have this study, and to continue to draw attention to this huge resource in our community,” said East Quabbin Land Trust Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw, who was asked by the state to review the plan before it was released.

The EQLT has most recently developed a half-mile of the trail in Ware, near the trust’s Frohloff farm on Church Street. It was built as an accessible trail so it is wide and covered in crushed stone. The plan is to connect it to the trust’s already existing portions in New Braintree and Hardwick. The trust is also working on a trail from the farm



The Norwottuck Rail Trail in Belchertown.

to Grenville Park, which is also on Church Street in Ware.

Henshaw said more fully developing the trail between towns, such as Ware and Hardwick, can help residents travel to local jobs and shopping. She also said it provides a safe place for people to enjoy nature and to get exercise without being near cars.

Craig Della Penna, who has been involved in the trail for a couple of decades, said developing trails always benefits the communities it runs through. He is a Northampton Realtor who specializes in selling houses close to rail trails.

“When trail projects come through the result is economic development,” he said. “Local small businesses benefit and will locate there, and it’s more lively.” He pointed to Gilbertville’s Rose 32 bakery and restaurant as the type of business that could be attracted to locating along the trail. Part of the existing trail runs between Gilbertville and New Braintree. Rail trails help make communities more viable and liveable, he said. The state used the Gilbertville-Ware covered bridge as one of the sights on the trail during their recent conference last week. Della Penna also runs a website about the MCRT at www.masscentralrail-trail.org/, which has old and new maps.

In fact, the economic vibrancy the trails bring to communities has been part of the reason the state has put an emphasis on creating trails, Della Penna said. The state now has a Trails Committee made up of multiple agencies and they meet every few weeks, he said.

History

The Massachusetts Central Railroad originally ran west from Boston for 104 miles to Northampton, and the state wants to see it use as much of



Turley Publications staff photo by Paula Ouimette

A feasibility study to complete the Mass Central Rail Trail was recently released by MassDOT, showing how a stretch between Belchertown and Hudson/Berlin town line can be finished. This is a sign in the New Braintree section of an already existing section of the trail.

the original rail corridor as possible. It was once possible to get on a train in Boston’s North Station and travel to Northampton’s Union Station, although Paul Jahnige, with the state’s Department of Conservation and Recreation said at a MassDOT conference this week the railroad was abandoned in the early 1900s. A hurricane in 1938 severely damaged the line, and over time some of the line could not even be seen.

Importance

Trails in general, and the MCRT specifically, has been identified as a high priority for the commonwealth’s trail and greenway system, according to the report. It involves MassDOT’s statewide Bike and Pedestrian Plans, the Department of Conservation & Recreation’s Commonwealth Connections, and various local and regional plans, according to the report.

At last week’s virtual 2020 Moving Together conference, MassDOT’s John Bechard described it as a “critical backbone” in creating shared use trails in the state, and said it was the top rail trail priority in the state. He described the feasibility study as

a way of kicking the completion of the trail into higher gear, and determining what needs to be done to make it a reality.

The study details approximately 55 miles of undeveloped segments along the MCRR corridor are currently in public, private or conservation ownership. About 33 miles of this trail have already been constructed as off-road, multi-use greenways.

An additional 22 miles of former railroad corridor are owned by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and leased by DCR between Coburn Road in Berlin and Linden Street in Waltham, according to the study. This 22-mile corridor is in varying stages of planning, design and construction by the municipalities, DCR and Eversource Energy to develop the 10-foot wide, paved MCRT.

“This trail will knit together slowly over time,” Della Penna said. “It may take a generation.”

The full feasibility report can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/mass-central-rail-trail-feasibility>. Comments and suggestions from the public will be taken through Dec. 1 at <https://tinyurl.com/y6j9r7bp>.



The Warren Wright Road parking area for the Norwottuck Rail Trail in Belchertown. The state recently released a feasibility report for a portion of the Mass Central Rail Trail, running from Belchertown to the Hudson/Berlin town line.

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge.
Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.







www.newspapers.turley.com

Neal praises House passage of pro-cannabis ‘MORE’ Act

U.S. Rep. Richard E. Neal, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, was among those who voted in favor of the “Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act of 2020” last week.

The bill, which seeks to reclassify cannabis as a non-dangerous substance with medical benefits and decriminalize sales and possession nationwide, passed the House 228 to 164. If it passes the Senate and becomes law, the legislation, introduced by N.Y. Rep. Jerrold Nadler, would essentially create a U.S. model of the cannabis policy adopted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

“Today’s House consideration of the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act of 2020 or the MORE Act marks an important step in mitigating the impacts of the historically racist war on drugs,” Neal said after the Dec. 4 vote.

“This legislation will reform our federal criminal laws while also making investments in and empowering communities of color and those adversely affected by current unjust policies,” he said.

Specifically, the proposed law removes marijuana from the list of scheduled substances under the Controlled Substances Act and eliminates criminal penalties for an individual who manufactures, distributes, or possesses marijuana.

The bill also makes other changes, including the following:

- replaces statutory references to marijuana and marihuana with cannabis
- requires the Bureau of Labor Statistics to regularly publish demographic data on cannabis business owners and employees



Curaleaf is an adult dispensary in Ware. On Dec. 4, the U.S. House passed a bill that, if it becomes law, would make it easier for similar businesses to open in states where they are now prohibited. It also would expunge the records of people convicted on cannabis-related charges.

establishes a trust fund to support various programs and services for individuals and businesses in communities impacted by the war on drugs

imposes a 5% tax on cannabis products and requires revenues to be deposited into the trust fund, makes Small Business Administration loans and services available to entities that are cannabis-related legitimate businesses or service providers

prohibits the denial of federal public benefits to a person on the basis of certain cannabis-related conduct or convictions

prohibits the denial of benefits and protections under immigration laws on the basis of a cannabis-related event (e.g., conduct or a conviction)

establishes a process to expunge convictions and conduct sentencing review hearings related to federal cannabis offenses

directs the Government Accountability Office to study the societal impact of cannabis le-

galization

“This change to federal law does not undermine the ability of states to apply their criminal laws to marijuana as they see fit. Instead, it makes marijuana a federally regulated substance that is subject to the FDA’s regulatory authority and federal taxation. The excise tax that is established by the bill is similar to those for alcohol and tobacco,” Neal said.

“By creating a legal marijuana market that is subject to federal taxation, this legislation also creates an opportunity trust fund that will increase opportunities for individuals and communities affected by the War on Drugs. The opportunity trust fund will fund programs such as job training, reentry services, and substance use disorder services, as well as assistance to small businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.”

COVID from page 1

contact cases reported this year.

“When you take the contact cases and the probabilities, which they say to add in, and that gives you how many cases you likely have in your community, we’ve had almost 150 new cases in tiny little South Hadley since last week,” said Sullivan.

The town predicts that the surge could continue into next week, as cases skyrocket throughout the Commonwealth following gatherings that occurred during the Thanksgiving holiday. While numbers are increasing, Sullivan feels strongly that South Hadley residents are remaining vigilant.

“You still have the vast majority of people being cooperative,” he said. “We’re still seeing people wearing masks more often and started to put additional signage up this week about wearing masks, washing hands, social distancing, staying at home and encouraging people to take those foundational approaches to COVID-19.”

Sullivan noted that vigilance is not only critical at this time, “it’s the whole ball of wax.” While South Hadley has not yet publicized its strategy for managing the distribution of

COVID-19 inoculations, Sullivan relayed that an important development was announced by the Baker-Polito administration on Wednesday afternoon.

The state’s first shipment of 59,475 doses of the Pfizer vaccine was ordered on Dec. 4 and will be delivered to 21 hospitals spanning eight counties, as well as the Dept. of Public Health’s immunization lab.

Doses will soon after be delivered to 74 hospitals, spread throughout all 14 counties in the Commonwealth. By the end of December, the state expects that 300,000 first doses of the vaccine will be delivered in Massachusetts.

Doses of the first vaccines, manufactured by Pfizer and Moderna, will be administered three to four weeks apart. The Commonwealth anticipates that it will distribute approximately 2 million doses to “priority population groups” by the end of March 2021.

The anticipated vaccination phases and timeline goes as follows. Phase One will begin this month and stretch into February of 2021, as the state will administer vaccines to clinical and non-clinical healthcare employees working in the presence of COVID-19.

First responders, long term care facilities, rest homes, assisted living facilities and congregate care settings such as shelters and corrections all fall under Phase One.

Phase Two of inoculations will begin in February and conclude in April of 2021. Individuals at high risk for COVID-19, most essential workers and adults over the age of 65 fall under the second phase.

Phase Three, the final phase, is expected to begin in April. As part of Phase Three, vaccines will be made accessible to the general public.

Last month, the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services announced that the government has partnered with large chain pharmacies and networks representing pharmacies to distribute COVID-19 vaccines.

The list includes, but is not limited to, Costco Wholesale Corp., CVS Pharmacy, Inc., Publix Super Markets Inc., Rite Aid Corp., Topco Associates, LLC, Walgreens, Walmart, Inc., and Winn-Dixie Stores Inc.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

Volunteers sought for for Town Administrator Screening Committee

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Selectboard invites interested residents to apply to serve on the South Hadley Town Administrator Screening Committee.

“We look forward to having a resident participate in the process of selecting South Hadley’s next town administrator,” said Jeff Cyr, chair of the Selectboard. “It is important to us that residents are involved throughout the screening process.”

The duties of the seven-member Town Administrator Screening Committee include reviewing résumés of applicants, selecting approximately six to nine semi-finalist candidates, interviewing those candidates, and selecting a total of three to five finalists to forward to the Selectboard for interviews.

The deadline for receipt of applications to serve on the Town Administrator Screening Committee is Dec. 31, at 12 p.m.

It is anticipated that the members of the Town Administrator Screening Committee will need to attend a maximum of four meetings to fulfill their

committee obligations. Once finalists’ names are presented to the Selectboard, the Town Administrator Screening Committee will have completed its mission.

“Town Administrator Screening Committee members will have a critical role in determining finalists for this important position,” said Sarah Etelman, vice-chair of the Selectboard. “We are pleased to be able to call upon residents’ experience, knowledge, and insight.”

South Hadley has hired the consulting firm Community Paradigm Associates to assist in the town administrator search process. The consultant will guide and assist Town Administrator Screening Committee members in their efforts.

To submit an application to serve on the Town Administrator Screening Committee, please send your letter of interest and/or résumé via email to KMaher@southhadleyma.gov

For more information, please contact Kristin Maher, executive assistant to administration, at KMaher@southhadleyma.gov or 413-538-5030, x6135.

Community invited to give input on next town administrator

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Selectboard is asking residents to share their thoughts on the preferred qualifications, skills, and experience they would like South Hadley’s next town administrator to possess.

The Selectboard has contracted with the consulting firm Community Paradigm Associates to facilitate the search process. Residents are encouraged to email their thoughts to: CitizenInput@communityparadigm.com.

“We are very interested in hearing residents’ recommendations regarding the expertise and qualifications they would like to see in their next Town Administrator,” said Jeff Cyr, South Hadley Selectboard chair. “It is important that South Hadley’s citizens are an integral part of the Town Administrator selection process.”

For more information, please contact Executive Assistant to Administration Kristin Maher, at KMaher@southhadleyma.gov or 413-538-5030, ext. 6135.



Tell Us What You Think

Share your thoughts and suggestions with our staff and your fellow readers.

Participate in our opinion pages, or contact us anytime with your feedback!

Town Reminder
Your Community Newspaper

www.townreminder.turley.com
townreminder@turley.com • 413.283.8393

Opinion

Coriander, fit for cookie-making

My family and I have been enjoying Christmas by Candlelight at Old Sturbridge Village for as long as the program has been running. Wanting to visit the Village after a long work day is through is a real testament to how wonderful this evening event is. It was there that we first sampled a coriander cookie made by a recipe from the early 19th century. We thought it was so yummy, in fact, that it became a welcome addition to our Christmas cookie repertoire. With a double batch under my belt just this afternoon, there is no time like the present to learn about this really neat, multi-purpose plant.

Most gardeners already know that coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*) is one of the few herbs that goes by two different names depending on the part of the plant used. Its foliage, known as cilantro, is used fresh in a number of culinary delights. When the plant goes to seed, known as coriander, it can be used in that stage as well, eaten whole, crushed or powdered.

I liken cilantro to be the “marigold” of the herb world. Either you love it or you hate it. I, for one, immensely dislike it and if given the chance to pick it out of my salsa I will certainly do so. Even in a restaurant. I found it interesting to learn that some people possess a genetically predisposed aversion to it, according to studies by Charles J. Wysocki, of the Monell Chemical Senses Center, in Philadelphia. To me it has a bitter taste that I have a hard time describing beyond that. Dirty? Soil-like? Most people that do dislike it have a similar lack of descriptive ability; they just can’t put their finger on it, but they don’t like the taste...or the smell of it.

It’s funny that when my oldest daughter received her Ancestry DNA results, she was shown not to possess the genetic aversion. Well, she didn’t get that from me....

Cilantro is often used in salsa and other Mexican, Asian and Italian dishes including curries, sauces, salads and soups. If you prefer to grow the plant more for its greens and less for its seeds, manage it as you would spinach. Sow seeds in the ground in the cool of the season and in succession every two weeks. It dislikes being transplanted but doesn’t mind pot culture. Harvest greens rather aggressively- about one-third of the plant at a time. Just like spinach, there are slow-to-bolt varieties to choose from such as aptly named ‘Slow Bolt’ and ‘Longstanding.’ Cilantro’s flowers are edible and they attract lots of beneficial insects such as lady beetles, parasitic wasps and syrphid flies.

Coriander seeds, on the other hand, have a pleasant (at least to me) fragrance once dried. The scent is easier to pinpoint too; nutty and spicy (ever so slightly) come to mind. Coriander seed is also well known in various ethnic cuisines and is a favorite in spice blends, curry being the most popular. It is also used in the making of a number of distilled spirits, herbal liqueurs and Christmas cookies as I have come to find out and favor!

The Herb Society noted that during World War II coriander seeds were coated in white or pink sugar and thrown from carnival wagons, earning the name “confections” or “confetti” When the seeds were replaced by balls of colored paper the name confetti stuck. Take this one to your next game of Cruise Ship Trivia!

It is easy to harvest the seeds. Simply let the heads dry to brown right on the plant. Clip them and place inside a paper bag; as they dry further they will open and the seeds will pop out. Even if you are only interested in harvesting the seeds, multiple plantings (or a big garden patch) are necessary to get a decent-sized harvest. Let a few drop their seeds and you will be blessed with a few self sown plants next spring.



Roberta McQuaid

IN THE GARDEN



A QUOTE

of NOTE

“ It’s been a tough year for everybody so it’s just great to see the kids enjoying themselves and the families enjoying themselves and being able to get out and experience the holidays and some sense of normalcy. ”

Lt. Jason Houle
of Fire District 1 in
the story “A special stroll.”

OPINION PAGE/
LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to townreminder@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to Town Reminder, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dirt bike riders and ATVs need a place to ride

Granted conversation land is meant for hikers and those seeking peace and tranquility but those who look for adventure and challenge need a place to let loose.

Bynan conversation area in South Hadley is a precious habitat which belongs to hikers as well as four-legged creatures.

I also sympathize with dirt bikers because when I was young, more than 50 years ago, my buddies and I would ride in the gravel-pits located in various sections of Granby. The Ludlow Sportsmen’s Club

had a dirt track which hosted some of the best riders in the northeast. When the track wasn’t being used for competition we would spin our wheels on the same course.

To solve the conversation dilemma, perhaps an investment in securing an acre or two in a more remote place not being used for any specific purpose would serve the two-stroke engine riders well.

Bill Paul

Thank you, South Hadley & Granby Chamber of Commerce

On Nov. 17, the South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce President, Michelle Theroux and Treasure, Michele Lyman, were on hand to present a check for \$1,000 to Council on Aging Director, Leslie Hennessey. The generous donation will be used to fund two, senior assistance programs that offer financial support to South Hadley seniors who are experiencing a financial need during the holiday season. The cen-

ter’s “Light’s On” Program and the Holiday Gift Card Program are funded by the generous donations made by local organizations, businesses, and members of the community.

For more information about these programs, call Ann Andras at 413-538-5042.

Leslie Hennessey
Director
South Hadley Council on Aging

GUEST COLUMN

Pandemic lays bare our information problems

By Lee H. Hamilton
Guest columnist

When the history of this era is written, special attention should be reserved for the prominent US politicians who dismissed or misrepresented the COVID-19 pandemic for political purposes.

The coronavirus has wreaked untold suffering and damage to this country through the deaths it’s caused, the illness it’s produced, the strain it has placed on the lives and well-being of health care workers, and the incredible damage it’s done to the livelihoods and prospects of millions of Americans. It has been able to do this because we had a major failure of government.

To be sure, at the state level many governors have conducted themselves with forthright attention to the risks to their populations and have done their best to translate scientific and medical advice into policies designed to save lives while trying to undergird their economies. But at the federal level—with the notable exception of the effort to fast-track research and production of a vaccine—we mostly failed to mobilize resources and take the measures necessary to combat the virus, starting early this year when the virus first emerged on the West Coast.

In particular, we failed to provide a com-

prehensive, federally led nationwide strategy providing clear guidance on mask-wearing, offering resources for contact tracing, and helping states develop their approaches to quarantining for those exposed to the virus—the three legs vital for early containment.

Instead, President Trump repudiated and disregarded the advice of experts and health officials and offered a misleading narrative about the spread of the virus abating in the spring. His misinformation was picked up and amplified by news outlets and by politicians who alleged that concern about the pandemic was just a hoax peddled by President Trump’s opponents and would disappear as soon as the election was over. Or, even worse, who misled Americans about hydroxychloroquine and other drugs. In other words, many Americans were fed bad information at a time when high-quality information was necessary to stem the spread of the virus and limit the number of deaths.

The result has been devastating, and not just to our public health efforts. For many decades, the U.S. Has been the leader of the international order, the undisputed power, with vast wealth, economic and military power, and global reach. But our image has been tarnished badly because of the mishandling

Please see **PANDEMIC**, page 7

TOWN
Reminder

The Town Reminder is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

EDITOR
Melina Bourdeau
townreminder@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Dalton Zbierski
dzbierski@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Maureen McGarrett Hall
mmcgarrett@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

SOCIAL MEDIA



@ Town Reminder

WEB
www.townreminder.turley.com

Turley
Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

Ledges closed for season

Winter use regulations posted

Staff report

SOUTH HADLEY – The Ledges Golf Course is now closed for the season.

Recreation Department Director Andy Rogers said staff would like to thank all of the guests this year for supporting the Ledges in such trying times and advises on winter use regulations.

The golf course property will be open for passive recreation this winter. A face covering is required when using the facility due to Governor’s orders.

For those walking the course and enjoying our amazing views, please remember to stay on the cart paths at all times and avoid walking on the grass areas, even if covered by snowfall.

Is there is enough snow for cross country skiing and snowshoeing, visitors are asked to avoid the putting greens and tee boxes to keep the grass healthy. These areas are typically raised



Archive photos

Regulations have been published for those looking to use the Ledges Golf Course during the winter.

at the ends of each hole.

For those that have dogs, the town’s new dog park is available at the beginning of Mulligan Drive (just before the water tower) to help your dog stretch their legs or get them socialized.

Please use this area and not the golf course if you have a dog.

The map of the property can be found here: <https://www.southhadley.org/DocumentCenter/View/4119/Ledges-Golf-Course-Walking-Paths>

PANDEMIC from page 6

of this outbreak, made worse over the last four years by our willingness to step away from alliances and international organizations. We are weaker on the world stage than we were a few years ago, and especially since the start of the pandemic.

The problem with reaching this point was summed up cogently back in October by John Halpin, of the Center for American Progress, as part of a study looking at the alarming rise in Americans’ willingness to believe conspiracy theories, unfounded rumors, and already-disproven claims. “American society faces a genuine crisis in public trust in government, corporations and the media, exacerbated by wide partisan divides about who and what to believe,” he said. “If we cannot agree on basic facts about what is going on in our country, there is little hope of generating consensus on what needs to be done

to control the pandemic and fix our economy. Rebuilding public trust in major institutions, and the information they provide the public, is now a national priority.”

I agree. In many ways, the world of information has improved from the days when just a handful of news sources provided Americans with what we needed to know, but there was also a benefit to those times: we might have disagreed about how to tackle national problems, but we all understood what those problems were. Today, people stick to the news sources they agree with, creating a muddle of American public opinion and making it extremely difficult for policy makers to find the common ground needed to accomplish difficult and ambitious policy goals.

This is a significant challenge for the United States, and we have got to get on top of it sooner rather than later.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

See Santa, virtually

SOUTH HADLEY – While he’s preparing for the upcoming holiday Santa will take time to do Zoom calls with local families.

The friends of Buttery Brook Park and the South Hadley Recreation Department announced that South Hadley is offering online visits with Santa Claus for two weeks using the Zoom platform.

Due to the COIVD-19 pandemic, the typical visits at the Buttery Brook Park Log Cabin with Santa have been cancelled.

The sessions will be held Dec. 10 to Dec. 13 and dec. 17 to Dec. 20. There will be daily blocks between 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and 9 to 10:30 a.m. on Saturday mornings.

Additional times may be added based on demand.

Participants must pre-register at Southhadleyrecre-

ation.org

There is no cost to visit with Santa.

Registrations will close 24 hours before the session, and it is first come/first serve for attendance. This is limited to South Hadley residents and/or students in the public schools.

When you sign in, one of Santa’s helpers will make sure that everyone is up and running with the Zoom platform and other family and guests will be able to virtually attend as well. The session in total will last for about 10 minutes. Participants will have the ability to pick up some coloring books at the South Hadley Public Library at set times.

Each participant will receive a ‘nice list’ certificate after their meeting.

Here is the link online: <https://leagues.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1345157>

Festival of wreaths

SOUTH HADLEY – Morning Star Community Baptist Church of South Hadley, 11 N. Main Street in South Hadley Falls, welcomes the community to join in the Festival of Wreaths on Saturday from 12 to 4 p.m. on Dec. 12. Face masks required.

Uniquely themed, hand crafted wreaths will be displayed through the building, allowing for social distancing

while viewing. In exchange for an entrance fee of \$2, receive raffle tickets to enter to win your favorite wreath.

Winners will be announced on Dec. 12.

Outdoor craft activities will be available for children, weather permitting.

Funds are being raised to benefit the future opening of Big Ma’s Soup Kitchen.

Local Newspapers are

▶ **IMPORTANT** ◀

Any Way You Look At It

Acres of Beautiful Live Christmas Trees

MOSS HILL TREE FARM

Since 1956

The Mason Family

222 Upper Moss Hill Rd.
Russell, MA 01071
413-862-3815

Find us on Facebook at Moss Hill Tree Farm

Open Dawn to Dark until Christmas

SELECT & CUT-YOUR-OWN

Live Spruces • Balsam • Frazier • Concolor Firs

\$25 - \$50 All Sizes up to 16 feet

Two Trees for \$60 ~ Bring a Friend ~ Some Pre-Cut

On Weekends We Offer FREE:

Warming Fires * Helpers * Loaner Saws * Evergreen Boughs

Please Be COVID Safe / Bring In This Ad for 10% Off

Time has a way of changing things...

With the passing of another year, we reflect on the events that changed our lives-some of them good, but for some, there have been better years. Fortunately, time has a way of healing, and letting us go forward-a promise of better years to come. Whatever last year brought you, we want you to know our family's thoughts are with you for a healthy and happy New Year.

B
S

BEERS & STORY
FUNERAL HOMES AND CREMATION SERVICE

Palmer 283-9061 | Belchertown 323-6961 | South Hadley 533-4400

AN AFFILIATE OF FOUNDATION PARTNERS GROUP & FPG MASSACHUSETTS,
4901 VINELAND ROAD, SUITE 300, ORLANDO, FL 32811 – (407) 680-2777



STROLL from page 1

celebration that drew dozens of townsfolk to the blacktop on the evening of Friday, Dec. 4.

"We've had a great turnout. It's very festive and there have been lots of smiles. It's just been a good night," said Jessica Bodon, a member of the Holiday Stroll Committee, who delved into how the initiative came to be.

"We contacted [Beers & Story], and there was no hesitation on their end. They just volunteered the use of their parking lot here and their electricity. Without having the event here, it may not have happened at all," said Bodon.

In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Claus, the South Hadley Electric Light Dept., the South Hadley Police Dept. and Fire District 1 all contributed to the festivities, as did a variety of local businesses and chamber members.

While the stroll took on a new look at a new location, the sense of togetherness that has defined the event through the

years was ever present at Beers & Story on Dec. 4.

Michele Lyman, owner of Serenity Yoga, was relieved when she learned that the stroll would not be cancelled, and the experience surpassed her expectations.

"I think we were all a little bit nervous about how it would come together; never doing this before," said Lyman. "The kids are just lighting up when they see Santa, and it just brings such warmth to my heart that they're at least able to see them and find a little bit of joy during a tough year."

Lt. Jason Houle of Fire District 1 joined several colleagues, standing next to a firetruck that was decked out in Christmas lights. Like Lyman, Houle pointed out that the evening was all about the kids.

"It's been a tough year for everybody so it's just great to see the kids enjoying themselves and the families enjoying themselves and being able to get out and experience the holidays and some sense of normalcy," said


Houle, who was accompanied by his two daughters.

Houle offered local youths his highest praise. He believes that people can learn from the way that South Hadley's children and teenagers have handled themselves during the pandemic.

"I think we really need to look at the way they're taking it and really look at ourselves like, 'It's not that bad; we'll get through this.' I don't think I've ever heard one kid complain about wearing a mask or any of the stuff they have to do," said Houle.

Where the stroll will be held next year, no one knows, but on Dec. 4, the exterior of Beers & Story was the only place that Chamber Vice President Regina Zebrowski wanted to be.


“Every year, it’s amazing to be part of the stroll, and this year more than ever,” said Zebrowski. “When COVID hit, we knew we had to reimagine it. It was so important to bring this to the community, and tonight just shows how much everybody really came together.”



HAPPY HOLIDAYS


To advertise your business on the *Town Reminder* holiday page, please call Maureen at 364-4994 or email: mmcgarrett@turley.com


Dr. Steven Markow, Optometrist



Happy Holidays!


Flexible Savings (HSA) Accepted
Use It Don't Lose It
 Gift Certificates Available






Relaxed Friendly Atmosphere
 Most Insurances Accepted

Village Eye Care, PC
 7 HADLEY STREET, SOUTH HADLEY
 (Route 47 across from the Village Commons)
 (413) 536-6100



Due to the circumstances of 2020, we will be postponing Santa's Land this Holiday Season. Please Stay Safe & Warm.

**Best Wishes,
 BUTTERY
 BROOK PARK**



BRUNCH
 Saturday's & Sunday's
 10:30am - 3pm

EARLY BIRD SPECIALS
 Monday - Friday
 3-5pm

Daily Lunch and Dinner
 Specials
536-2342
 Gift Certificates Available

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

Jump balls eliminated, close contacted limited in modifications

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Modifications for boys and girls basketball have been released and the game will look a little different, though significant limits to fan attendance will restrict how many can see the different-looking game.

In Western Massachusetts, the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference has decided the first practices will not take place until Jan. 4. Several other areas of the states are following suit. With no playoffs scheduled for the winter season, the various regions have the flexibility to decide when schools will begin and end play.

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association has set a Dec. 14 date as the soonest teams can start practicing. Several Central Massachusetts schools will start practicing then with contests likely to begin right after the new year.

One rule that will be consistent throughout all sports is the mask mandate.

Participants must wear masks or face coverings at all times will participating in practices or games. The one caveat is that all schools have the ability to designate areas where athletes can take “mask breaks.” There will be areas designated for those breaks, especially during basketball games where players going up and down the court many times wearing a mask may need to catch a breath when the whistle blows. Because of the close contact involved with playing basketball, there was no way to play the sport safely without masks being worn.

The game will see modifications, but nothing too drastic and more along the way the timing, and setup of the game. Gameplay will be largely similar though different ideas were discussed to maintain distancing.

Like many other sports, the pre-game will be simplified. Only one captain will meet with the referees prior to the game. Starting lineups will likely be announced, but the traditional “high-five” lines will not be allowed, along with handshakes with the opposing coach.

There will be emphasis during game play to enforce rules about freedom of movement and closely guarding opposing players. Defenders are not allowed to impede the progress of offensive

Please see **BASKETBALL**, page 11

Academy team joining Pioneers organization

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW — The Western Mass. Pioneers will be adding a USL Academy League soccer team in 2021. The New England Mutiny are also in the process of forming an Academy soccer team.

Both Academy soccer squads, which will be playing their home matches at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, will be made up of the top U16-U19 prospects from the Western Mass. area.

“In club soccer, you’re limited to certain age groups,” said Joe Ferrara, who’s the owner of the Mutiny and the new Pioneers General Manager. “An academy soccer team allows talented players to play for one team regardless of their age.”

The Pioneers had about 50 players try-out for the Academy League team in November.

“The Academy League team is a new program that we’ve added this year,” said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. “Our main goal is to develop the best local soccer players from Western Mass. to hopefully play for the Pioneers in the future.”

Molinari, along with the Pioneers assistant coaches will be coaching the Academy League team in 2021.

“We wanted to have the same coaching staff for both the USL 2 team (Pioneers) and the USL Academy team,” Molinari said. “We want both of the teams to play the same type of style. I do like coaching the younger soccer players.”

The plan is for the boys’ Academy League team to play their home matches prior to the Pioneers matches. Both teams will also be traveling together to road matches.

The boys’ team will be competing against eleven other teams in the Northeast Division of the USL Academy League.

Molinari has been coaching the Pioneers, who are the defending Northeast Conference Champions of USL League Two, since 2012. The Pioneers weren’t able to play any matches in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Pioneers did not suffer any losses during the 2019 regular season. They lost in conference finals and qualified for U.S. Open Cup, which wasn’t held last summer. The Pioneers also qualified for the league playoffs in 2016.

“I really enjoy coaching the Pioneers and it was painful not being able to compete in any matches last year,” Molinari said. “We won our Division title in 2019 and it was our best season since I’ve been coaching the team. We’re now thinking about the 2021 season.”

Ferrara gave his thoughts about adding a girl’s Academy team for the Mutiny.

“We’re looking for the top girl’s prospects in the area to play for the girls academy team next year,” he said. “The age group will be similar to the boy’s side. The girl’s academy team will probably have one or two older players.”

The girls Academy team will be playing home matches before the Mutiny.

Jill Serafino is going to be the head coach of the girls academy squad. Serafino is currently the Mutiny General Manager and is an assistant coach. She’s also an assistant coach for the women’s soccer team at Springfield College.

The Mutiny, who celebrated their twentieth anniversary in 2019, played all of their home matches at Lusitano Stadium for the first time. The Mutiny also finished the 2019 regular season without a loss. They lost to the Lancaster Inferno in the United Women’s Soccer Eastern Conference finals.

For more information on either Academy soccer teams please contact Joe Ferrara at jferrara@wmpioneers.com or 413-330-9775.



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Pioneers tryouts conclude

The Western Mass. Pioneers organization continued its tryouts for various age groups between Nov. 16 and 20, testing out the skills of many young people throughout the region to fill its various teams for the upcoming spring season. The Pioneers are hopeful for a normal schedule in 2021.



T-Birds make donation to cancer-related charities

SPRINGFIELD – On Nov. 30, the Springfield Thunderbirds’ Foundation announced \$4,000 in donations to local cancer-related charities to cap off a successful Hockey Fights Cancer campaign during the month of November. Donations will be made to local cancer-related charities, including: Center for Human Development’s Cancer House of Hope, Survivor Journeys, American Cancer Society - Relay for Life, Mercy Medical Center - Sister Caritas Cancer Center, and the national non-profit, Hockey Fights Cancer.

This season’s campaign looked quite different from previous years. Typically, the Thunderbirds would host a Hockey Fights Cancer themed game at the end of November, complete with specialty lavender jerseys that are worn by the players and auctioned off after the game. This year, however, the campaign was activated on social media. Throughout the month of November, the Thunderbirds collected names on social media from fans for people they “fight for.” New Valley Bank & Trust committed to donate \$5 for each submission received to the Thunderbirds’ Foundation, for the first 500 submissions for a remarkable \$2,500 total donation. The names were then added to Hockey Fights Cancer placards that were placed on the windows leading to New Valley Bank & Trust’s newly renovated headquarters in Monarch Place in downtown Springfield.

“As we take down the placards we are revealing our brand new headquarters location”, said Jeff Sullivan, President and CEO of New Valley Bank. “We have been inspired by the personal messages of hope as we have been completing our construction on the other side of the glass. There are heroes all around us, from our friends and family fighting cancer to the work that the Thunderbirds and others do to alleviate hunger in the community. We at



Submitted photo
Thunderbirds Managing Partner Paul Picknelly, New Valley Bank & Trust President and CEO Jeff Sullivan, Thunderbirds Mascot Boomer, Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa, and Thunderbirds Vice President, Sales & Strategy Todd McDonald.

New Valley continue to be very optimistic about the return of the vibrant culture of downtown Springfield as we begin to see vaccine distribution and economic resurgence in 2021.”

In addition to the contribution from New Valley Bank, the Thunderbirds also collected monetary donations on their foundation website, as well as holding a specialty game-worn jersey raffle from previous Hockey Fights Cancer games. The grand total generated through these campaigns equaled \$4,000.

“Hockey Fights Cancer has been an

incredibly important cause for our organization and across the AHL and NHL,” said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. “Even though our season hasn’t technically started yet, it was important to keep the cause front and center in our community, and we thank New Valley Bank & Trust for stepping up during this difficult time. We are grateful to all who supported the cause by purchasing a raffle ticket, making a donation to our foundation, or simply submitting a name of someone that you fight for.”

Senior photos from fall season wanted

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The fall season is nearing its end and Turley Publications has been all over the action.

But with this unpredictable season there have been temporary or in some cases, permanent stoppages in play, and we still want to help feature your athletes,

especially those who are seniors this year.

We continue to ask for help on this season in order to bring the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages with names and color.

We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is where you all come in.

If you attended any senior games and would like to see those photos in our pa-

pers, we welcome submitted photos from those events and information about graduating seniors who participated in Fall 1 sports.

We also welcome any additional information about other major achievements. Send any and all information and photos for inclusion to sports@turley.com.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

BASKETBALL from page 10

players, and will enforce the five-second rule on players who are being closely guarded.

The jump ball will be eliminated in favor of a simple coin toss to give possession of the ball to one team. Alternating possession will then prevail like the rest of the game typically does.

Free throws will look a bit different with just four players allowed with the shooter. Normally six players are allowed. When a player is awarded two or three free throws, they will shoot alone until the final shot to limit the time players are in close contact.

One bigger chance that affects the end-of-game strategy for teams is the “intentional” fouls used to try and gain possessions for a team that is trailing. A team will looking to intentionally foul for that purpose will inform the referee of that intention, and then lightly tag the player with the ball upon inbounding. The referee would then blow the whistle.

Jump balls will be whistled quicker in order to limit close contact.

Rosters are limited to no more than 15 players and three coaches on the bench, though many teams do not carry more than 12 or 13 players. The MIAA is also strongly discouraging

Star Speedway announces 2021 schedule

EPPING, N.H. – Star Speedway’s 2021 schedule includes multiple major events, a full slate of weekly racing series divisions ready to race for a championship and the thrills and spills of staple shows to begin and end the season.

Fans will get a taste of Supermodifieds, Late Models, Modifieds, Mid-gets, Super Late Models, Trucks, Street Stocks and more over the course of more than 22 events of racing from April through October.

The schedule is headlined by two events for the Tri Track Open Modified Series (May 29 and July 24), including a new Memorial Day weekend show and the 10th annual SBM Classic in July. The 56th annual Star Classic returns, with a three-day show from Sept. 17 to 19, while there are countless other special events including memorial races and extra-distance shows planned. The Granite State Pro Stock Series is back at Star for two dates -- May 8 and a new Sunday special as part of the Star Classic weekend, Sept. 19.

Continuing tradition, the season begins with the Spring Bunny Brawl on April 24, and ends with the two-day Howler weekend, Oct. 23 and 24. Star will give teams, drivers and fans one week off each month during the season, with off nights scheduled for May 22, June 12, July 17, Aug. 28 and Sept. 4.

The J&S Paving 350 Supermodifieds will continue to honor some of the best of the past at Star Speedway, with six special events as part of their 10-race schedule for 2021. A champion will be crowned on Sept. 11. Major memorial events planned include the inaugural Dennis McKennedy Memorial race as part of the Star Classic:

- Bob Webber Sr. Memorial (May 15)
- Jen Garland Memorial (June 19)
- Krupski Cup (June 26)
- Marco Turcotte Memorial (July 24)
- Jim Belfiore Memorial (Aug. 14)
- Dennis McKennedy Memorial at Star Classic (Sept. 18)

The Ken Izzett Construction Late Models are back with their own nine-race slate, headlined by an Independence Day weekend special on July 3, a 75-lapper, and a 100-lap feature on Aug. 21. The Late Models will also return to the Star Classic, this year as part of a Friday slate. The Late Model champion will be crowned on Sept. 11.

The MLM Diagnostic Fast 40 series return for the Woody’s Street Stocks as part of the division’s 16-race schedule. There will be four races in the 40-lap series (April 24, May 29, June 26 and Aug. 7), while the season will begin at the Bunny Brawl and end with the title battle on Sept. 26. The Street Stocks will continue to run their 50-lap race to end the season at the Howler, Oct. 23.

The EXIT Realty Pro Truck Series rumbles into the New Hampshire oval for two dates of their own, slated for events on Aug. 7 and Star Classic Sunday, Sept. 19. The North East Mini

Please see **SCHEDULE**, page 12

SERVICE
DIRECTORY

To advertise on this page
call the Town Reminder at
283-8393

ELECTRICIAN

GAGNON ELECTRIC

All Types Of Electrical Work.
Fully Insured.
All Work Fully Guaranteed
Free Estimates. Lic. #14960A
533-8867

TFN

HOME IMPROVEMENT

NORM LEPAGE CONTRACTOR

Additions, Remodeling, Repairs
Roofing, Decks, Garages,
Porches, Termite Damage, Etc.
Licensed. Insured. Experienced.
323-4961

TFN

TREE SERVICES

EDGE TREE SERVICE, INC.

Tree Removal, Trimming,
Land Clearing, Stump Grinding.
Fully Insured. Free Estimates.
Peter Edge 532-5764
www.edgetreeservice.com

TFN

TREE SERVICES

LUCCHESI TREE SERVICE
AND LANDSCAPING

Lot Clearing, Retaining Walls,
Mowing, Pruning, Stump Grinding, Irrigation.
Insured
534-1002

TFN

Public Safety

Tebow takes over TRIAD

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – On the morning of Dec. 9, South Hadley Police Ofc. Emily Tebow was chosen to lead South Hadley TRIAD, a program designed to protect local seniors. Tebow fills a position that was left vacant by Ofc. Steve Fleming, who retired this spring.

As South Hadley’s TRIAD Officer, Tebow will work closely with the Hampshire County Sheriff’s Office, Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan and the South Hadley TRIAD and S.A.L.T Council. Tebow began embracing the role immediately after learning of her selection.

“I’m most excited about being part of the team. I heard that it’s a great team to be a part of; the Sheriff’s Office, the District Attorney’s Office,” said Tebow. “I’ve already reached out to a couple people today to introduce myself. I’m very excited to be part of a well-established team and will contribute as best I can.”

Since its establishment in 1994, South Hadley TRIAD has bridged the gap between seniors, law enforcement and service providers in an effort to improve the quality of life of elderly residents. South Hadley Police Chief Jennifer Gundersen listed several of Tebow’s responsibilities.

“She’s going to really focus on some of the fraud and scams that we have in the community,” said Gundersen. “We have a lot of victimization of seniors through scams, and Emily will try to really work on that and to see if there’s just a couple more things that we can be doing to communicate these to the seniors.”

Tebow was sworn in as a South Hadley officer on July 28 and expressed interest in assuming the role of TRIAD Officer. Her affinity for seniors influenced her decision to pursue the position.

“It’s just been something I’ve always been passionate about,” said Tebow. “Seniors are one of our most vulnerable popula-



Courtesy photo

South Hadley TRIAD Ofc. Emily Tebow was officially named to her new position on Dec. 9 and is excited to serve and protect the town’s elderly population.

tions and seeing them either get taken advantage of or be falling through the cracks is something that I hope to prevent from happening.”

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, isolation amongst the senior population grows worse. Tebow plans to capitalize on opportunities to engage South Hadley’s elderly residents and hopes to learn from them in the process.

“We all come from such diverse backgrounds as it is, but people who have been on this planet longer than I have definitely have more life experiences,” said Tebow. “I enjoy the social part of it and hearing their stories; I enjoy hearing about their life experiences, their families, what they’ve done for work and all that. Their lives and experiences have an impact on others so it’s good to be a part of and be an ear for them to have listen.”

Tebow assumes the position following Fleming’s tenure as the town’s TRIAD Officer. Fleming established himself as a key resource, connecting seniors not only to the department but to the community at large.

“Steve so cared about his seniors; he started some great programs,” said Gundersen.

“Sand for Seniors” he start-

ed, the ‘Are-You-Okay’ program he started, he started the house-numbering program and he was so committed to them. I think that is why it is such a strong TRIAD Council right now. They have great volunteers and great internal leadership, but I think that comes from the confidence that they had in Steve.”

Tebow served as a dispatcher in the station for six years prior to being sworn into the force. She said she is excited to begin the next chapter of her law enforcement career and thanked those who offered her a chance.

“I’ve very appreciative for the opportunity to be a police officer and am fortunate that the Chief trusts me to take on this role, being a new officer,” said Tebow. “Everybody in this department is really team-oriented so it’s good to have that confidence behind you, and it’s great to be part of such a well-oiled machine and well-working team.”

More information pertaining to South Hadley TRIAD can be located at <https://www.south-hadley.org/334/TRIAD>. Tebow can be reached tebow@south-hadley.org or by dialing 413-538-5050 ext. 6403.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

Prioritize safety during holiday activities

REGION – Traveling for the holidays might not be on the menu due to COVID-19, but comfort food, festive decorations, and cozy nights in are sure to lift everyone’s spirits. Unfortunately, these activities can often lead to fire, with Christmas Day and Christmas Eve as two of the top days each year for home fires caused by cooking and candles.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) encourages everyone to keep safety in mind in order to lessen the chance that a fire will disrupt their holiday celebrations.

“For a lot of people, December tops the list for the most heartwarming time of year, but it’s also a leading month for home fires in the U.S.,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy for NFPA. “Carefully decorating your home and mindfully cooking your meals can help make your holidays safer.”

Following are NFPA statistics highlighting the increased risk of fire during the holidays:

Decorations

More than half (51%) of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles, compared to one-third (32%) in January to November.

From 2014 to 2018, an estimated average of 770 home structure fires per year began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees. These fires caused an average of two civilian deaths, 30 civilian injuries, and \$11.1 million in direct prop-

erty damage per year.

More than two of every five (44%) decoration fires occurred because the decoration was too close to a heat source, such as a candle or hot equipment.

One-fifth (21%) of the home decoration fires occurred in December, while 10% happened in January.

Christmas trees

Fires caused by Christmas trees are uncommon, but they are more likely to be serious when they do occur.

Between 2014 to 2018, U.S. fire departments responded to an average 160 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. These fires caused an annual average of two civilian deaths, 14 civilian injuries, and \$10.3 million in direct property damage.

Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 45% of home Christmas tree fires.

In more than one-fifth (22%) of the Christmas tree fires, some type of heat source, such as a candle or equipment, was too close to the tree.

Cooking

Cooking is the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries and the second leading cause of home fire deaths.

An average of 470 home cooking fires were reported per day in 2018.

Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, fol-

Please see **SAFETY**, page 15

Hampshire Sheriff alerts residents to phone scam

REGION – Hampshire County Sheriff Patrick Cahillane is alerting residents to a phone scam being perpetrated in the Pioneer Valley.

The scam, commonly known as “phone spoofing” or “caller ID spoofing,” is when a scammer uses caller ID spoofing technology to impersonate the phone numbers of local businesses or government agencies in attempt to acquire money or some sort of personal information.

On Monday, Dec. 7, Sheriff Cahillane said his office had received several calls from area residents reporting that they had received calls from a person identifying themselves as an employee of the Hampshire Sheriff’s Office seeking money due to court charges, and then requesting payment via gift cards.

“The Hampshire Sheriff’s Office will never, never, call private citizens and demand payment or accept payment of any kind over the phone,” Sheriff Cahillane said. “If you receive such a call, the best tactic is to simply hang up. Anyone receiving such a fraudulent call might also consider contacting their lo-

cal police department, or notifying my office at 413-584-5911. The FBI website – www.fbi.gov – also has information about how to avoid such scams.”

Here are some additional tips from the Better Business Bureau on what to do if a scammer calls:

- Hang up – don’t press any buttons and, if you received a voicemail, don’t call the scammer back. We all like to have the last word, but returning the phone call may just give the scammer information they can use.
- Don’t trust caller ID – scammers have technology that lets them display any number or organization name on your screen.
- Never give out any financial information – if you did not initiate the call, do not provide bank account, credit card or Social Security numbers over the phone unless you have thoroughly done your research and verified the caller.

“The duty of the Hampshire Sheriff’s Office is to protect public safety,” Sheriff Cahillane added. “We want everyone to stay safe, and to remember that my office will never make these kinds of phone calls.”

SCHEDULE from page 11

Stock Tour returns to Star three times -- including dates on June 5, Aug. 7 and Sept. 26. The annual NEMST 4 Cylinder Nationals main event will be run during their September date, moved from Classic weekend.

Two Wild And Whacky Wednesday night races are set for June 23 and Aug. 4, with both nights showcasing 4 and 6/8 Cylinder enduro races. The Six Shooters join the June show, while the August race is

headlined by the Mia’s Jewelry Boutique Slingshots and spectator one-on-one drag races. NELCAR returns to Star with their Legends Cars division in 2021, with dates on May 8 and Saturday, Sept. 18.

The three-day Star Classic will honor the late Bobby Weber Sr., beginning on Friday, Sept. 17, headlined by a 100-lap race for the Modified Racing Series, joined by the Late Models, Pure Stocks and Slingshots. On Saturday, the day full of winged warriors is back with the ISMA 125, Dennis McKenney 350 Supermodified memorial, NEMA Midgets, NEMA Lites and NELCAR Legends Cars. On Sunday, the weekend ends with a 100-lapper for the Granite State Pro Stock Series, races for the EXIT Trucks, Classic Lites, Street Stocks and Six

Shooters.

The Six Shooters will run 13 races, headlined by the Don & Aline Coster Memorial (July 10) and the Liz Paradise Memorial (Oct. 23). The Slingshots are set for 14 battles of their own, with a 40-lap special scheduled for part of the Aug. 4 show. There are 13 races for the Pure Stocks, races for the Classic Lites, and multiple enduro races for the 4, 6 and 8 cylinders.

The track will hold two swap meets -- one to start the season on April 17, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., and one in the fall, a two-day special on October 30 and 31 from 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The 2021 schedule is subject to change due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information visit Star Speedway at StarSpeedwayNH.com and follow the track on social media.

Visit us at
www.turley.com

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

ANTIQUE AND PERIOD CHAIRS
– Restored with new woven seats –
Many styles and weaves available. Call
(413)289-6670

DISH TV - \$59.99 For 190 Channels
+ \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free
installation, Smart HD DVR Included,
Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions
apply. Call **1-877-925-7371**

FIREWOOD

A1 WE STILL HAVE SEASONED
FIREWOOD Prompt Delivery and
Competitive Pricing. Call now S & K
413-267-3100

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$160.00
Seasoned cut & split \$200.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for
outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & vol-
umes **guaranteed!!** New England
Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

!!!!SEASONED FIREWOOD!!!!

Over a cord guaranteed. Cut, Split,
Prompt delivery, Call D & D Cordwood
(413)348-4326.

MISCELLANEOUS

A PLACE FOR MOM. The nation's
largest senior living referral service.
Contact our trusted, local experts to-
day! Our service is FREE/no obliga-
tion. CALL **1-855-799-4127**

DEALING WITH WATER DAM-
AGE requires immediate action. Local
professionals that respond immediat-
ely. Nationwide and 24/7. No Mold Calls.
1-800-506-3367

DO YOU HAVE chronic knee or back
pain? If you have insurance, you may
qualify for the perfect brace at little to
no cost. Get yours today! Call **1-800-
217-0504**

FOR SALE

INVENTORS- FREE INFOR-
MATION PACKAGE Have your
product idea developed affordably by
the Research & Development pros
and presented to manufacturers. Call
855-380-5976 for a free idea starter
guide. Submit your idea for a free con-
sultation.

LIFE ALERT. 24/7. One press of
a button sends help FAST! Medical,
Fire, Burglar. Even if you can't reach
a phone! FREE brochure. CALL **800-
457-1917**

MOBILEHELP, AMERICA'S PREMIER MOBILE MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM. Whether you're Home or Away. For Safety and Peace of Mind. No Long Term Contracts! Free Brochure! Call Today! **1-844-892-1017**

OXYGEN-ANYTIME. ANY-
WHERE. No tanks to refill. No deliv-
eries. Only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved!
FREE info kit: Call **1-855-917-4693**

PROMOTE YOUR PRODUCT, service or business to 1.7 million house-
holds throughout New England. Reach
4 million potential readers quickly and
inexpensively with great results. Use
the Buy New England Classified Ad
Network by calling **(413)283-8393**,
classifieds@turley.com. Do they work?
You are reading one of our ads now!!
Visit our website to see where your
ads run
communitypapersne.com

STAY IN YOUR HOME longer with
an American Standard Walk-In Bath-
tub. Receive up to \$1,500 off, including
a free toilet, and a lifetime warranty
on the tub and installation! Call us at
1-866-945-3783.

STOP STRUGGLING ON THE
STAIRS. Give your life a lift with an
ACORN STAIRLIFT! Call now for \$250.
OFF your stairlift purchase and FREE
DVD & brochure! **1-844-325-8610**

WANTED

COMIC BOOKS WANTED! Com-
ics, Comic Artwork, Vintage Toys,
Pulps, Etc! 50+ years of experience!
Gary Dolgoff (413) 529-0326 gary@
gdcomics.com

SERVICES

A B Hauling and
Removal Service

2*****A & B HOUSEHOLD
REMOVAL SERVICE*****
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard
debris. Barns, sheds, demolished.
Swimming pools removed. Cheap-
er than dumpster fees and we do all
the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured.
**(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-
8868.**


2*****A CALL WE HAUL
WE TAKE IT ALL
WE LOAD IT ALL
Lowest Rates,
accumulations, junk, estates,
attics, garages, appliances,
basements, demo services.
10% disc. with this ad of services.
Dumpster Rentals available for rent.
All Major CC's
CALL NOW **(413)531-1936**
acallwehaul@gmail.com

A HOME IMPROVEMENT SPE-
CIALIST Decks, additions, garages,
sheds, porches, repair work. BBB
Approved Tim **413-563-2229** Lic
#053483

SERVICES

B&D PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
Since 1982, Insured, References,
HIC#175887
Carpentry, Painting, Roofing, Apart-
ment Turnovers, Cleanups, Lawn Care,
Fall Cleanup, Snow Removal, more.
(413) 455-5458

BILODEAU AND SON ROOFING.

Established 1976. New re-roofs and
repairs. Gutter cleanings and repairs.
Licensed/ insured. Call **(413)967-
6679**

CHAIR SEAT WEAVING & refinish-
ing - cane, fiber rush & splint - Class-
room instructor, 20+ years experience.
Call Walt at **(413)289-6670** for esti-
mate.

DRYWALL AND CEILINGS, plaster
repair. Drywall hanging. Taping &
complete finishing. All ceiling textures.
Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls.
(413)563-0487

NEED AN ILLUSTRATOR for your
next ad, website, or book project?
Freelance illustrator Sadie Parrotta is
taking commissions. Examples of her
work can be seen at sadieparrotta.
weebly.com. Contact her at sadie.par-
rotta@gmail.com for more information.


WE RENOVATE, SELL & PUR-
CHASE (any condition) horse drawn
vehicles such as sleighs, carriages,
surreys, wagons, dr's buggies, drive-
able or lawn ornaments. Some furni-
ture and other restoration services
available. Reasonable prices. Quality
workmanship. Call **(413)213-0373**
for estimate and information.
**DEMERS & SONS
BELCHERTOWN, MA**

SERVICES

PAINT AND PAPER Over 25 years
experience. References. Lic #086220.
Please call Kevin **978-355-6864.**

SNOW PLOWING, DRIVEWAYS
AND SMALL PARKING LOTS.
Residential and Commercial clean-
outs/dumpster service. Palmer, Wil-
braham, Monson, Ludlow area. Fully
insured. Call DiRico Properties (413)
530-1299

APPLIANCES

ALLEN ST. JEAN APPLIANCE
REPAIR **413-562-5082** Servicing
all brands of major appliances. Senior
discounts available. Servicing all of
western MA.

CHILD SERVICES

*NEW STATE LAW. Anyone adver-
tising caring of children must list a li-
cense number to do so if they offer this
service in their own home.

ELECTRICIAN

BILL CAMERLIN- ADDITIONS,
service changes, small jobs for home-
owners, fire alarms. Fast, dependable,
reasonable rates. Insured, free esti-
mates E280333. 24 hour emergency
service. **(413)427-5862**

CHAMPAGNE ELECTRICAL
CONTRACTORS Service changes/
upgrades, generators, phone/data wir-
ing, smoke detectors. Insured. Credit
cards accepted. License #22882A
(413) 210-9140

DEPENDABLE ELECTRICIAN,
FRIENDLY service, installs deicing
cables. Free estimates. Fully insured.
Scott Winters electrician Lic. #13514-B
Call **(413)244-7096.**

SERVICES

HOME
IMPROVEMENT

CERAMIC TILE INSTALLATION
Kitchen, bath, foyers. Referenc-
es. Lic #086220. Please call Kevin
(978)355-6864.

DELREO HOME IMPROVEMENT

for all your exterior home improve-
ment needs. ROOFING, SIDING,
WINDOWS, DOORS, DECKS & GUT-
TERS. Extensive references available,
Fully Licensed & Insured in MA. & CT.
Call GARY DELCAMP @ **413-569-
3733**

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. RE-
MODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceram-
ic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering,
textured ceilings, siding, decks. Insur-
ance work. Fully insured. Free esti-
mates. **(413)246-2783** Ron.

NAWROCKI HOME IMPROVE-
MENT- KITCHENS bathrooms, re-
placement windows & doors, roofing,
siding, decks, custom woodworking,
drywall. Full insured & registered **413-
237-2250** Mark

WATER DAMAGE
CALL JAY (413)436-5782-
FOR REPAIRS
COMPLETE DRYWALL SER-
VICE. FINISHING, PAINTING,
CEILING (SMOOTH OR TEX-
TURED). 40+ YEARS EXPERI-
ENCE. FULLY INSURED.

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S
LANDSCAPING &
BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arboretum Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Maintenance
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal/
Clean-outs
Insured
413-636-5957

PAVING

STANLEY AND SONS PAVING
Third Generation of quality drive-
ways, parking lots, roadways. Free
Estimates. Loam Delivery Senior Dis-
counts. Call anytime (413)267-1996,
(413) 246-7999

PLUMBING

GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING
& HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs &
Replacement of fixtures, water heater
installations, steam/HW boiler replace-
ment. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30
years experience. Fully insured. \$10
Gift Card With Work Performed. Call
Greg **(413)592-1505**

LINC'S PLUMBING
LIC. #J27222
"New Season"
"New Projects"
Call LINC'S
For Your Connection
(413)668-5299

ROOFING

FREE ROOF INSPECTIONS. All
types of roofing, shingle, flat and slate.
Call Local Builders **(413)626-5296.**
Complete roofing systems and repairs.
Fully licensed and insured. MA CS
#102453. Senior Discount. 24 hour
service. Veteran Discount.

SNOWPLOWING

24 HOUR SNOWPLOWING/
SNOWBLOWING Service, Monson,
Palmer, Wilbraham, Hampden. Resi-
dential, Commercial, Apartments. Call
or text now. Limited space available.
413-519-5439

Buying? Selling?

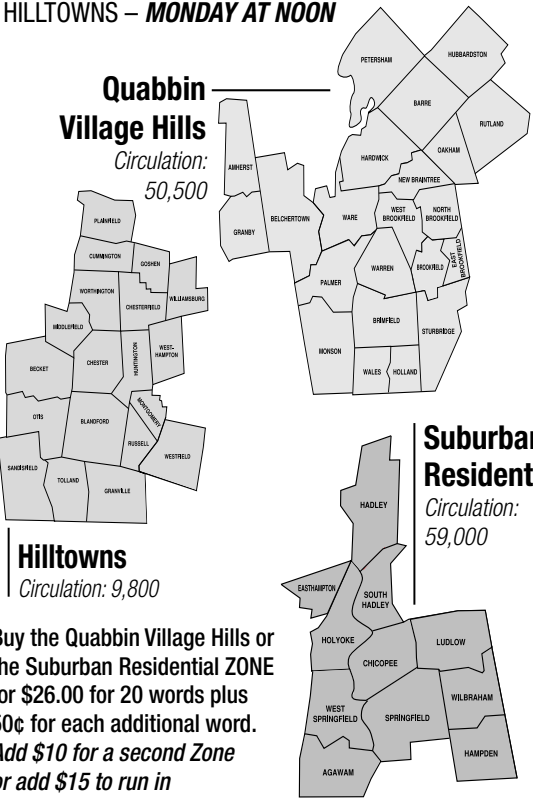
Our
Classifieds
Get Results!



FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – FRIDAY AT NOON
or call: 413-283-8393 HILLTOWNS – MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40



Quabbin
Village Hills
Circulation:
50,500

Suburban
Residential
Circulation:
59,000

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or
the Suburban Residential ZONE
for \$26.00 for 20 words plus
50¢ for each additional word.
Add \$10 for a second Zone
or add \$15 to run in
ALL THREE ZONES.

First ZONE base price

Add a second ZONE

Add a third ZONE

Subtotal

x Number of Weeks

TOTAL Enclosed

Includes additional words

\$10.00

\$5.00

Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):

Quabbin

Suburban

Hilltowns

Name: Phone:

Address:

Town: State: Zip:

Number of Weeks: X per week rate = \$

Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check#

Card #: Exp. Date CVV

Amount of charge: Date:

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

SERVICES

SNOWBLOWER & LAWNMOWER
TUNE UP & REPAIR
A&M TUNE-UPS
*Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers
and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.*
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

TREE WORK

DL & G TREE SERVICE- Every-
thing from tree pruning, tree removal,
stump grinding, storm damage and
brush chipping. Honest and Depend-
able. Fully insured. Now offering a
Senior Citizen and Veteran discount.
Call today for free estimate **(413)478-
4212**

STUMP
GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grind-
ing stumps of all sizes, insured & cer-
tified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-
478-4212**

AUTO

**CASH FOR
JUNK
AND REPAIRABLE
CARS**
**FREE TOWING
FAST SERVICE
CASH PAID AS IS
CALL OR TEXT
413-219-6839**

CARS/TRUCKS WANTED!!! All
Makes/ Models 2000-2019! Any Con-
dition, Running or Not. Top \$\$\$ Paid!
Free Towing! We're Nationwide! Call
Now: **1-888-513-1505**.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Get cash for as is
unwanted autos

- Cars/trucks
- Free towing
- All makes
- All models

413-246-5351
ask for Joe

PETS

RETIRED RACING
GREYHOUNDS AVAILABLE
FOR ADOPTION
SPAYED/NEUTERED, WORMED,
SHOTS, HEARTWORM TESTED,
TEETH CLEANED

MAKE A FAST FRIEND!

GREYHOUND OPTIONS INC.
CALL MARY AT 413-566-3129
OR CLAIRE AT 413-967-9088
OR GO TO
WWW.GREYHOUNDOPTIONS.
ORG

HELP WANTED

EXPERIENCED CASHIER. Apply
in person. 90 Meat Outlet, 90 Avacado
St., Springfield, MA (413) 737-1288

Advertise your home
improvement services
in our classifieds.
We get results!



HELP WANTED

TOWN OF PALMER TRUCK
DRIVER LABORER - OPERATIONS
DIVISION PUBLIC WORKS DEPART-
MENT. The Town of Palmer is accept-
ing applications for Full Time Truck
Driver - Laborer in the Department of
Public Works Operations Division. We
are seeking an experienced, self-mo-
tivated individual with public works
knowledge to become part of our op-
erations division. A High School Diplo-
ma, Class B Massachusetts Driver's
License with air-brakes endorsement
is required. A Massachusetts Hoister's
License is favorable. This is a union
position with an attractive starting sal-
ary, vacation, sick and personal time.
Please forward resume to 4417 Main
Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email
rmcnuitt@townofpalmer.com

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM P/T
Emergency Dispatcher & P/T Record-
ing Secretary. Looking for a reliable
P/T Emergency Dispatcher & P/T Re-
cording Secretary. For application and
more information please visit [www.wil-
braham-ma.gov](http://www.wil-
braham-ma.gov). Application deadline
12/31/20. EOE

Read your local newspaper online at
www.newspapers.turley.com

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY


ALL REAL ESTATE advertised
herein is subject to the Federal Fair
Housing Act, which makes it illegal to
advertise "any preference, limitation, or
discrimination because of race, color,
religion, sex, handicap, familial status,
or national origin, or intention to make
any such preference, limitation, or dis-
crimination." We will not knowingly ac-
cept any advertising for real estate
which is in violation of the law. All per-
sons are hereby informed that all
dwellings advertised are available on
an equal opportunity basis.

REAL ESTATE

VACATION
RENTALS

WARM WEATHER IS Year Round
In Aruba. The water is safe, and the
dining is fantastic. Walk out to the
beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available.
Sleeps 8. Email: carolaction@aol.com
for more information.

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this
newspaper is subject to the Federal
Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes
it illegal to advertise any preference,
limitation or discrimination based on
race, color, religion, sex, handicap,
familial status (number of children and
or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry,
age, marital status, or any intention to
make any such preference, limitation or
discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept
any advertising for real estate that is in
violation of the law. Our readers are hereby
informed that all dwellings advertising in
this newspaper are available on an equal
opportunity basis. To complain about
discrimination call The Department of
Housing and Urban Development "HUD"
toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E.
area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll
free number for the hearing impaired is
1-800-927-9275.

Public Notices

**GRANBY
PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE**

In accordance with MGL
Ch. 40A, Sec. 9, the Granby
Planning Board will hold a
virtual public hearing using
GoToMeeting on **December
21 at 5:05 PM**. The nature
of the hearing is to consider
the petition of Properties Plus,
LLC, Applicant and Owner,
seeking a Site Plan Approval
under 5.13, Business Estate
Lots, of the Granby Zoning
Bylaws for a metal building
that will be used for storage
of business and company
property on Lot 1 at 121 West
State Street, Granby, MA.

**Members of the public
can attend virtually by visit-
ing [https://global.gotomeet-
ing.com/join/271907781](https://global.gotomeet-
ing.com/join/271907781) or
by phone at +1 (408) 650-
3123 using access code 271-
907-781.**

The complete applications
and plans are available for
public inspection during regu-
lar business hours by appoint-
ment at the Selectmen's
Office located in the Granby
Senior Center Building,
2nd Floor, 10-B West State
Street, Granby, MA 01033.

Additionally, copies of the
plan and application may be
inspected on the Planning
Board's web page at [https://
www.granby-ma.gov/planning-board/events/23196](https://www.granby-ma.gov/planning-board/events/23196).

Anyone wishing informa-
tion and/or to be heard on this
matter should appear at the
time and place designated.

James Trompke, Chair
Granby Planning Board
12/04, 12/11/2020

**SALE OF MOTOR
VEHICLES UNDER
G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A**

Notice is hereby given
by **Hampshire Towing, 650
New Ludlow Rd., South
Hadley, MA 01075**, pur-
suant to the provisions of
G.L. c. 255, section 39A,
that a **SEALED BID** auc-
tion with bids due **Monday,
December 21, 2020 at
9 a.m.** Vehicles can be
viewed by appointment only
December 16 and December
17, 2020 between 9 a.m.
and 4 p.m. Monday through
Friday. Please call 413-534-
5373 for appointments.

The following motor
vehicles will be sold to sat-
isfy our garage keeper's lien

thereon for storage, towing
charges, care and expenses
of notices and sale of said
vehicles:

2005 Toyota Corolla
1NXBR32E45Z481407
Arianna Gregoire
29 Quincy Ave,
Chicopee, MA 01020

2008 Toyota Corolla
2T1BR32E08C858286
Geraldine R. Gross
5 Colonial Vlg Dr. Apt 6
Arlington, Ma 02474

1988 Suzuki Samurai
JS4JC51CXJ4246921 Angel
Rivera
584 Chicopee St. Apt2R
Chicopee, MA 01013

2004 Jeep Liberty
1J4GL48K84W240848
Lydia Rivera
56 Maple St Apt 218
Florence, MA 01062

2005 Ford Escape
1FMYU03Z45KB35569
Donald R. Dunckley
43 Michael Ave
Bellport, NY 11713

2005 Mazda Mazda6
1YVFP80C255M75426
Sherry D. Salazar
132 Beauchamp Ter
Chicopee, MA 01020

2003 Subaru Forester
JF1SG65613H756811
Anthony Filion
904B West Street
Ludlow, MA 01056

2006 Honda Civic
2HGFA16856H520601
Tania Feliciano
456 Maple Street #2RF
Holyoke, MA 01040

Quad
JSAAJ43A612110796 No
Record Found
No Record Found
No Record Found

18' Camper
4YDT3072344215431
Todd Fondakowski
29 Loudville Road
West Hampton, MA 01027

1998 Honda Civic
2HGFEJ6670WH509859
Bryan Velez- Morales
117 Bloomfield Street
Springfield, MA 01108

2006 Suzuki DR-Z 400sm
JS1SK44A462102003
Angel Rivera
584 Chicopee St
Chicopee, MA 01013


2007 Ford Edge
2FMDK46C57BB49772
Adam McNair
237 Stapleton Road
Springfield, MA 01109

Quad Ku1500
LAGAKUFR741000979 No
Records Found
No Records Found
No Records Found

2007 Nissan Sentra
3N1AB61EX7L676774
Johnathan Cartagena
24 Ringgold Street
Springfield, MA 01107

2001 Subaru Outback
4S3BH675517630255

Lydia Lozada
416 Canon Circle
Springfield, Ma 01118
12/04, 12/11, 12/18/2020



R	A	M	P	S		P	M	T		R	E	D	D	
C	L	E	A	N		G	A	E	A		E	B	R	O
P	O	R	C		S	A	G	A	N		F	L	O	E
T	E	L	E	V	I	S	E	D		S	E	A	L	S
			S	A	L	T	S		T	L	C		L	T
A	S	P		N	O	R		C	H	I	T	A		
T	H	U	D		S	O	P	H	O	M	O	R	E	
P	A	L	E	S		P	A	R		E	R	E	C	T
	M	A	C	A	R	O	N	I	S		Y	A	R	E
		S	I	R	E	D		S	A	C		S	U	E
A	P		M	O	B		S	T	R	A	P			
P	A	N	E	S		G	E	M	I	N	A	T	E	D
P	R	A	T		M	A	R	A	S		B	A	B	A
R	E	D	E		I	B	I	S		D	I	R	A	C
O	S	A	R		D	Y	N			P	R	O	N	E

WE'VE EXPANDED OUR WEB SITE PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all
notices to
notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and
digital tear sheets by
newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts'
public notice web site to search all notices in
Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Hidden walls, hidden mills

HOLYOKE – On Thursday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m., Wistariahurst will host Hidden Walls, Hidden Mills: Reading the Lost Industrial Landscape of the Western Mass Hills a live, virtual program presented by Pleun Bouricius. This program is free and open to all but pre-registration is required.

Get ready for a history adventure! In a mixed video and slide show presentation focusing on Plainfield and Leverett, historian Pleun Bouricius will explore how to “read” the forested landscape, find cellar holes, understand mill sites, and learn how water mills were situated and worked.

In the first decades of the nineteenth century, Western Massachusetts was largely shorn of trees; trees shaped and cut in hundreds of mills that took advantage of fast-moving streams on steep hillsides. Out-competed and passed by during the nineteenth century, this industry left an indelible imprint on the land.

Now largely forested, the landscape is dotted with few farms and some houses - and any number of publicly accessible woods. Everywhere are stone sites, ready for a passer-by trying to imagine lives lived on a bare windswept hillside or next to a stream ready to sweep away a mill building in the next freshet.



Courtesy photo

An online event, Hidden Walls, Hidden Mills: Reading the Lost Industrial Landscape of the Western Mass Hills, will be held on Dec. 17.

This program has been specially designed to address the needs of area seniors, many of whom continue to be socially isolated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is supported through a Community Development Block Grant - COVID-19 Grant to address, prevent, and respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic that is administered through the Holyoke Office of Community Development and has been planned in consultation with the Holyoke Council on Aging. Additional support has been provided through NEH CARES Act funding granted by Mass Humanities.

To register for Hidden Walls, Hidden Mills: Reading the Lost Industrial Landscape of the Western Mass Hills or any future programs, please visit www.Wistariahurst.org or contact Eileen Maginnis at the Holyoke Council on Aging at maginnise@holyoke.org. If you have an idea for a topic you’d like to be considered for a future Wistariahurst session, please contact info@wistariahurst.org. Future virtual programs will focus on a diverse range of historical and cultural topics including programs on nature, art, history, travel, and social justice.

CISA offers gift bag of local treats

REGION – Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture is offering for sale a gift bag stuffed with locally grown and produced foods. Just in time for year-end and holiday gifting, this brand-new tote bag features artwork by artist Arielle Jessop, and includes goodies from regional farms and food producers. Bags must be ordered by Dec. 13 for pickup at locations around the Valley on Dec. 19.

“We have really missed sharing local food with our supporters this year, having cancelled our events because of the pandemic,” said Philip Korman, CISA’s Executive Director. “We put together this gift bag as a way of sharing in the local harvest

with our community, from a distance. Sales benefit the producers we’re sourcing from, proceeds will benefit CISA, and the bags make great gifts -- to friends and family, colleagues and neighbors, or even yourself!”

There are two different bag sizes available, which will include items from the following farms and specialty producers: Atlas Farm, Apex Orchards, Back Roads Granola, Bergeron Sugar Shack, Bug Hill Farm, Carr’s Ciderhouse, Clarkdale Fruit Farms, Effie’s Homemade, Fat Toad Farm, Kitchen Garden Farm, Mother’s Jam, Old Friends Farm, Pioneer Valley Popcorn, Stockbridge Farm and Taza Chocolate.

To order or find more information, visit buylocalfood.org.

CISA is a nationally recognized organization of farmers, community members, and advocates working together to strengthen farms and engage the community to build the local food economy. Working in western Massachusetts and the region for over 25 years, CISA offers assistance to farmers, provides farm shares for low-income seniors, and runs the nation’s oldest agricultural “Buy Local” campaign - “Be a Local Hero, Buy Locally Grown.” Find out more about our work to double the amount of local food in our diets at buylocalfood.org or call 413-665-7100.

SAFETY from page 12

lowed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires.

Candles

Between 2014 to 2018 U.S. fire departments responded to an annual average of 7,610 home structure fires caused by candles. These fires caused an average 81 civilian fire deaths, 677 civilian fire injuries, and \$278 million in direct property damage annually.

On average, 21 home candle fires were reported each day. Three of every five (60%) candle fires started when something that could burn, such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations, was too close to the candle. Candle fires peak in December. January ranked second.

Nearly three times as many fires started by candles were reported on Christmas (an average of 58 Christmas fires) as the daily average.

Find a wide variety of tips and resources surrounding holiday fire safety on the NFPA Winter Holidays page. For more releases and other announcements about NFPA initiatives, research and resources, please visit the this NFPA press room.

About the National Fire Protection Association

Founded in 1896, NFPA is a global self-funded nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury,

property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information, visit www.nfpa.org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at www.nfpa.org/freeaccess.

SEND US YOUR EVENT PHOTOS



As a free service for our readers we accept and will print when space allows community event photos and announcements. Just scan the QR code above and send us your photos and any information.



Scan QR Code

Email items to townreminder@turley.com



Special Delivery

Direct from the North Pole

Send a child something special this Christmas – a Personalized Letter from Santa!

Brought to you by Turley Publications, this memory of a lifetime is a special opportunity to personalize a child’s Christmas holiday!

They will also receive a special gift with their personalized letter.

Simply cut out the coupon below, fill in your payment information and enclose your check for \$10.95.* The letter will be delivered just in time for Christmas!

Quantities are limited, so don’t delay, order today!

ONLY ONE NAME PER LETTER PLEASE.

**\$10.95 for the first one, \$9.95 for each additional. Please include phone number. Make copies of this form as needed. Expires 12/18/20.*

CHILD’S NAME(S) _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED:

☐ CHECK ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX ☐ DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP DATE: _____ 3 DIGIT CODE: _____

PHONE: _____

MAIL THIS COUPON TO:

Santa at Turley, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or call 413-283-8393 or email: ar@turley.com,
(Subject: Santa) for immediate assistance.

Quantities are limited. Turley Publications reserves the right to end offer at any time. Payment will be returned if offer expires due to limited quantity being sold out or multiple names per letter. Sales are based on a first come first serve basis.



Spread holiday cheer at gig speed.

‘Tis the season for fast, reliable Internet with top-notch coverage. With Xfinity, you can choose the speed that works best for you, all the way up to gig. Plus, Advanced Security is included at no extra cost with Xfinity xFi, so you can rest easy knowing that your connected devices are protected — just log in and activate through the Xfinity app. It's all powered by the largest gig-speed network outside the North Pole.

Get started with Xfinity Internet for

\$39⁹⁹ a mo. / 1 yr.

No term contract required

Equipment, taxes and other charges extra and subject to change. See details below.

Or pick your speed, with options up to gig

xfinity

Choose your speed

1 Gig

600 Mbps

200 Mbps

Enjoy a powerful Internet experience

Go to **xfinity.com**, call **1-800-xfinity** or visit an **Xfinity Store** today.



Offer requires enrollment in both automatic payments and paperless billing. Must enroll within 30 days of placing order for advertised offer. Without enrollment, service charge automatically increases by \$10/mo. Automatic payment and paperless-billing discount appears on bill within 30 days of enrolling. If either automatic payments or paperless billing are canceled during the 12-month period, or if service is downgraded to Limited Basic only, the \$10/mo. discount will be discontinued. Offer ends 1/31/21. Restrictions apply. Not available in all areas. New residential customers only. Limited to Performance Internet 100 Mbps. Equipment, installation, taxes and fees extra, and subject to change during and after promo. After promo, regular rates apply. Comcast's service charge for Performance Internet is \$77.95/mo. (subject to change). Service limited to a single outlet. May not be combined with other offers. Actual speeds vary and are not guaranteed. For factors affecting speed, visit xfinity.com/networkmanagement. xFi and xFi Advanced Security require Xfinity Internet and compatible gateway. xFi Advanced Security activation requires Xfinity app login. © 2020 Comcast. All rights reserved. NPA234019-0002 NED-WNE-NewLondon-Holiday-Q4-V4